

"Oakleigh"
350 Oakleigh St.
Mobile, Alabama

HABS No. ALA-47

HABS
ALA,
49-MOBI,
48-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NO. 16

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer
Auburn, Alabama

OAKLEIGH

PERIOD HOUSE — LOCAL MUSEUM



Oakleigh stands in all its charming beauty upon the highest point of what was known as Simon Favre's old Spanish Land Grant, and received its name from the many beautiful giant oaks surrounding it. It is not only charming but charmed, for no violence has marred its original beauty.

Mr. James W. Roper, a prominent member of the community in which he lived, began the erection of his home in 1833. He was his own architect and builder.

Slave labor was employed under Mr. Roper's personal direction and supervision to make Oakleigh the substantial mansion it has remained to the present time. The bricks used in the masonry of the first floor walls were made from clay dug on grounds. The main upper portion of the house is of hand hewn lumber. Tool marks may be seen on the door-sidings and window frames. The original silver plated door knobs remain on the huge doors of the two parlors, one parlor being designated the Walton-LeVert room because of a collection of Walton Family Portraits and a Thomas Sully Portrait of Octavia Walton LeVert, the South's Most Famous Belle.

The house was practically completed by 1838 when Mr. Roper brought his bride there to live. However as late as 1852 some of the interior was still unfinished. Oakleigh has been in the hands of several different families after it passed from the original owners. The Irwin family occupied Oakleigh for sixty-four years.

In 1935 the Historic American Building Survey chose beautiful Oakleigh to be photographed with floor plans and architectural details, for the Library of Congress. The floor plans show the original two-story house to be built in the shape of the letter "T".



Oakleigh today has been furnished by the Historic Society to conform to the interior style of home decoration used prior to 1850.

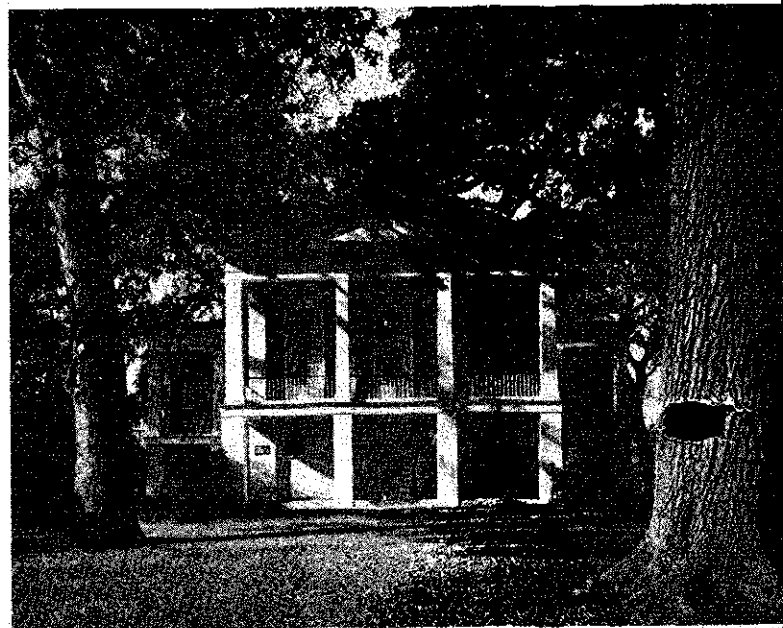
Furniture and accessories of the Early Victorian, Empire, and Regency periods is largely used to re-create Ante-Bellum life.

Some local museum items are exhibited. The most extensive memorabilia of Mardi Gras to be found in Mobile, is housed in one of the rooms on the second floor.

Oakleigh, Mobile's official ante-bellum mansion, was purchased in 1955 by the City of Mobile to be used as a Period House Museum and headquarters for the Historic Mobile Preservation Society. In exchange the Historic Society relinquished the Fort Conde—Charlotte House at 104 Theatre Street which they had bought in 1940 and restored for use as a meeting place and historic shrine.

Located within the city limits at the head of Savannah Street, one way to reach Oakleigh is to travel four blocks south from Government Street (Highway 90) on George Street to Savannah Street, or three blocks south from Government Street on Roper Street.

Come and See OAKLEIGH



Oakleigh

Mobile's Official Ante-Bellum Mansion

Home of

Historic Mobile Preservation Society

350 Oakleigh Place

Telephone 432-1281

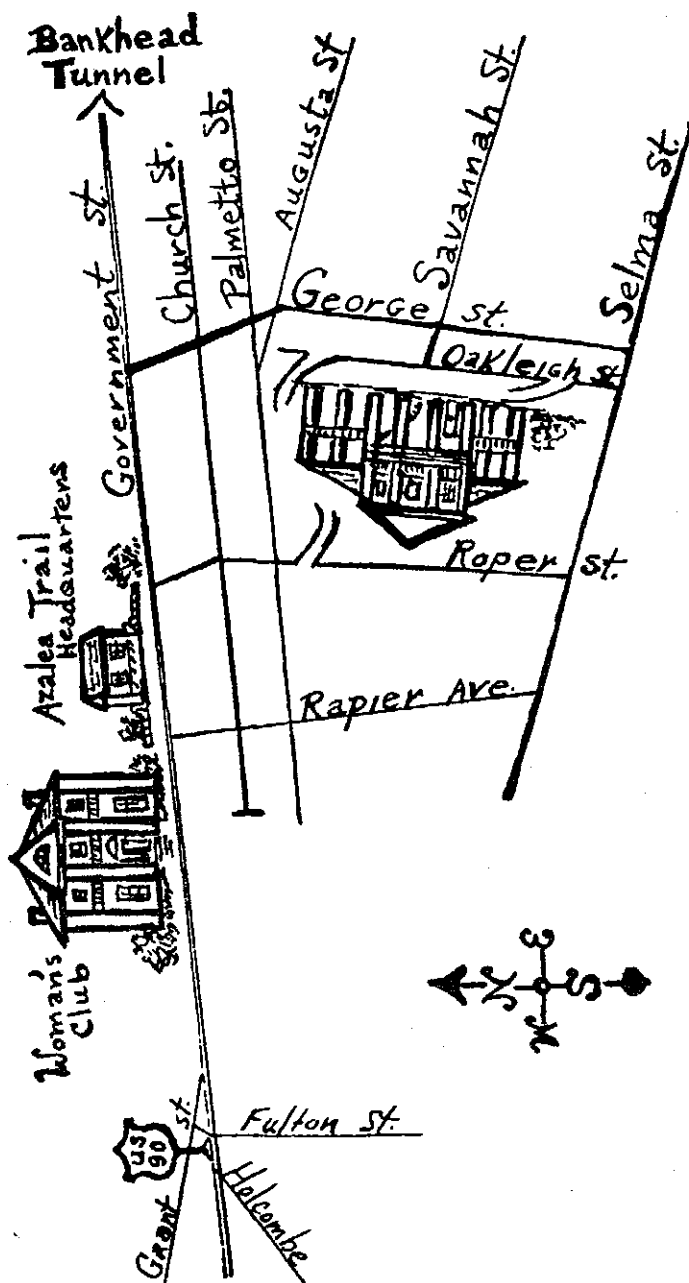
Mobile, Alabama

OPEN DAILY — 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

SUNDAYS — 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

CLOSED LEGAL HOLIDAYS and CHRISTMAS WEEK

Admission: Adults \$1.00 — Children 25¢



Meeting Room and Dining Room available for club meetings and social affairs.

For rates, reservations and appointments write or call the Executive Secretary.

For special tours at other than regular hours write —

Mrs. John F. Lyle, Executive Secretary

350 Oakleigh Place

Or call 432-1281

If no answer 973-2494

Special Convention Rates

OAKLEIGH (RESIDENCE)
Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama.

350 Oakleigh Street- *Place.*

HABS
ALA,
49-MOBI,
48-

0 Ownership:

Present Owner: H. S. Denniston
From Nov. 1926 to 1935.
Previous Owners: Pledged to Joseph Cowperthwaite, trustee
of the Bank of the United States.
From 1840 to 1852.
Bought from the trustees of the Bank of
the United States by Alfred F. Irwin, the
father of Colonels T. Kilshaw and Les Fern
Irwin.
From 1852 to 1866.
The daughter of Col. T. Kilshaw Irwin
From 1866 to 1916.
Dr. H. P. Cople
From 1916 to 1926.

Date of Erection: 1835.

Architect: James Roper.

Builder: Jamss Roper.

Present Condition: It was remodeled in 1870 when it was partly
destroyed by fire. The slave quarters have been destrpyed.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Conestruction: Frame house with brick basement, the
bricks for this house were made on the place.

Other Existing Records:

Additional Data: The grounds were larger than they are now and the first road came in by Marine Street. To the west there was an embankment where the soldiers camped during the Civil War.

Source of Material:

Mobile; Fact and Tradition, by Erwin
Craighead. Page 328.
Mrs. Booth, Fern Real Estate Co.,
111 St. Michael Street,
Mobile, Alabama.
Miss Helen Denniston,
Oakleigh, Mobile, Alabama.
Mr. Frank Craighead
1550 St. Stevens Road,
Mobile, Alabama.

DATA NOT COMPILED AND NOT GUARANTEED
BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Compiled by:

Katherine Floyd.
Auburn, Alabama.
Glennita Broach
Mobile, Alabama.

Approved:

E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer, HABS.
Auburn, Alabama.

9-10-36.

W

6/3/37

Addendum to
"Oakleigh" (Denniston House)
350 Oakleigh Place
Mobile
Mobile County
Alabama
in HABS CATALOG (1941)

HABS No. AL-47

HABS
ALA,
49-MOBI,
48-

PHOTOGRAPHS

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

ADDENDUM TO
OAKLEIGH, HOUSE AND SLAVE QUARTERS
(DENNISTON HOUSE AND SLAVE QUARTERS)
350 Oakleigh Place
Mobile
Mobile County
Alabama

HABS No. AL-47

HABS
ALA,
49-MOB1,
48-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C., 20013